

App. No. 09/600,203
Office Action Dated February 4, 2005

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 7, 8, 11 are hereby amended to address formal matters. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-4 and 6-16 are pending. Claims 13-16 stand withdrawn from consideration as of the final Office Action dated July 14, 2004. Applicants request that the non-elected claims be maintained and reinstated if amended to track allowed subject matter of the elected claims.

Claims 7-9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 112 for indefiniteness. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection to the extent it is maintained.

Claims 7, 8, and 11 have been amended, as the Examiner suggested. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are definite and in proper form.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4, and 10-12 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 2, 5, 6, 9, and 14 of copending Application No. 09/837,102.

Applicants respectfully submit a Terminal Disclaimer attached herewith, which includes copending Application No 09/837,102, thus rendering the rejection moot. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 3 is provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over the combination of claims 2, 5, 9, 14 and 15 of copending Application No. 09/837,102 in view of Pike et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6090731).

Applicants respectfully submit a Terminal Disclaimer attached herewith, which includes copending Application No 09/837,102, thus rendering the rejection moot. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

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Claim 6 is provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 30 and 23 of copending Application No. 09/837,102 in view of JP 4-45811.

As noted above, Applicants respectfully submit a Terminal Disclaimer attached herewith, rendering the rejection moot. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 7-9 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over the combination of claims 2 and 5 of copending Application No. 09/837,102 in view of JP 1-115423.

As noted above, Applicants respectfully submit a Terminal Disclaimer attached herewith, rendering the rejection moot. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 1-4, and 7-12 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over the combination of claims 2-4, 21-23, 28, and 30 of copending Application No. 09/937,129.

Applicants respectfully submit a Terminal Disclaimer attached herewith, which includes copending Application No 09/937,129, thus rendering the rejection moot. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 6 is provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over the combination of claims 30 and 23 of copending Application No. 09/937,129 in view of JP 4-45811.

As noted above, Applicants respectfully submit a Terminal Disclaimer attached herewith, rendering the rejection moot. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection.

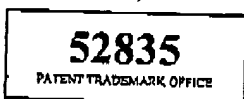
Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

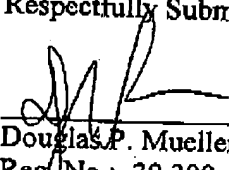
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In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested. Any questions regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Douglas P. Mueller, Reg. No. 30,300, at (612)455-3804.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: August 4, 2005




Douglas P. Mueller
Reg. No.: 30,300
Hamre, Schumann, Mueller & Larson, P.C.
225 South Sixth Street
Suite 2650
Minneapolis, MN 55402
612.455.3800

DPM:BAW